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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/655,146	09/04/2003	Kimitaka Kawase	075834.00438	6523
33448	7590	06/15/2005	EXAMINER	
ROBERT J. DEPKE LEWIS T. STEADMAN Trexler, Bushnell, Glanglorgi, Blackstone & Marr 105 West Adams Street, Suite 3600 Chicago, IL 60603-6299			COLON, GERMAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2879	

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/655,146	Applicant(s) KAWASE ET AL.	
	Examiner German Colón	Art Unit 2879	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishio et al. (JP 2001-100668).

Regarding claim 1, Nishio discloses a display unit (see at least Figs. 1, 2 and 4) comprising:

a plurality of panels 1-4 joined to each other into one display screen, each of said panels being formed using organic electroluminescent devices (see Fig. 3 and paragraph [0026]);

wherein a seal material 9 is applied to a joint portion between adjacent two of said plurality of panels in such a manner as to cover said joint portion.

Regarding claim 2, Nishio discloses a plate-like 5 or 11 member being stuck on said joint portion via said seal material 9.

Regarding claim 3, Nishio discloses said plate-like member including a material 12 having high thermal conductivity.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2879

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishio et al. (JP 2001-100668) in view of Kwasnick et al. (US 6,822,389).

Referring to claim 4, Nishio discloses the claimed invention except for the limitation of the plate-like member being colored into black. Nishio discloses to include a metallic layer 12 to reduced the uneven appearance of joints between the plurality of panels (see paragraph [0039]). However, in the same field of endeavor, Kwasnick discloses a display comprised of a plurality of panels and teaches that a black member between the plurality of panels promotes a seamless appearance, resulting in the creation of a visually integrated, composite image made up of the contributions of all the panels and modules (see Col. 1, lines 29-33; and Col. 3, lines 19-21). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the plate-like member colored black, since Kwasnick teaches that a black region between the panels promotes a seamless appearance, resulting in the creation of a visually integrated, composite image made up of the contributions of all the panels and modules.

Further, one having ordinary skills in the art would entertain the idea of providing a dark plate-like member, since the selection of known materials for a known purpose is within the skill of the art, and Nishio teaches the desirability of providing a seamless appearance.

Prior Art of Record

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Izumi et al. (US 5,838,405) and Babuka et al. (US 5,867,236) discloses a display device comprising a plurality of panels, said panels including LCD, PDP or EL devices.

Gaynes et al. (US 6,129,804) discloses a multi-panel assembly including an opaque (dark) plate-like support.

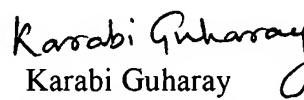
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to German Colón whose telephone number is 571-272-2451. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday, from 8:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on 571-272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


GC


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